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editorial

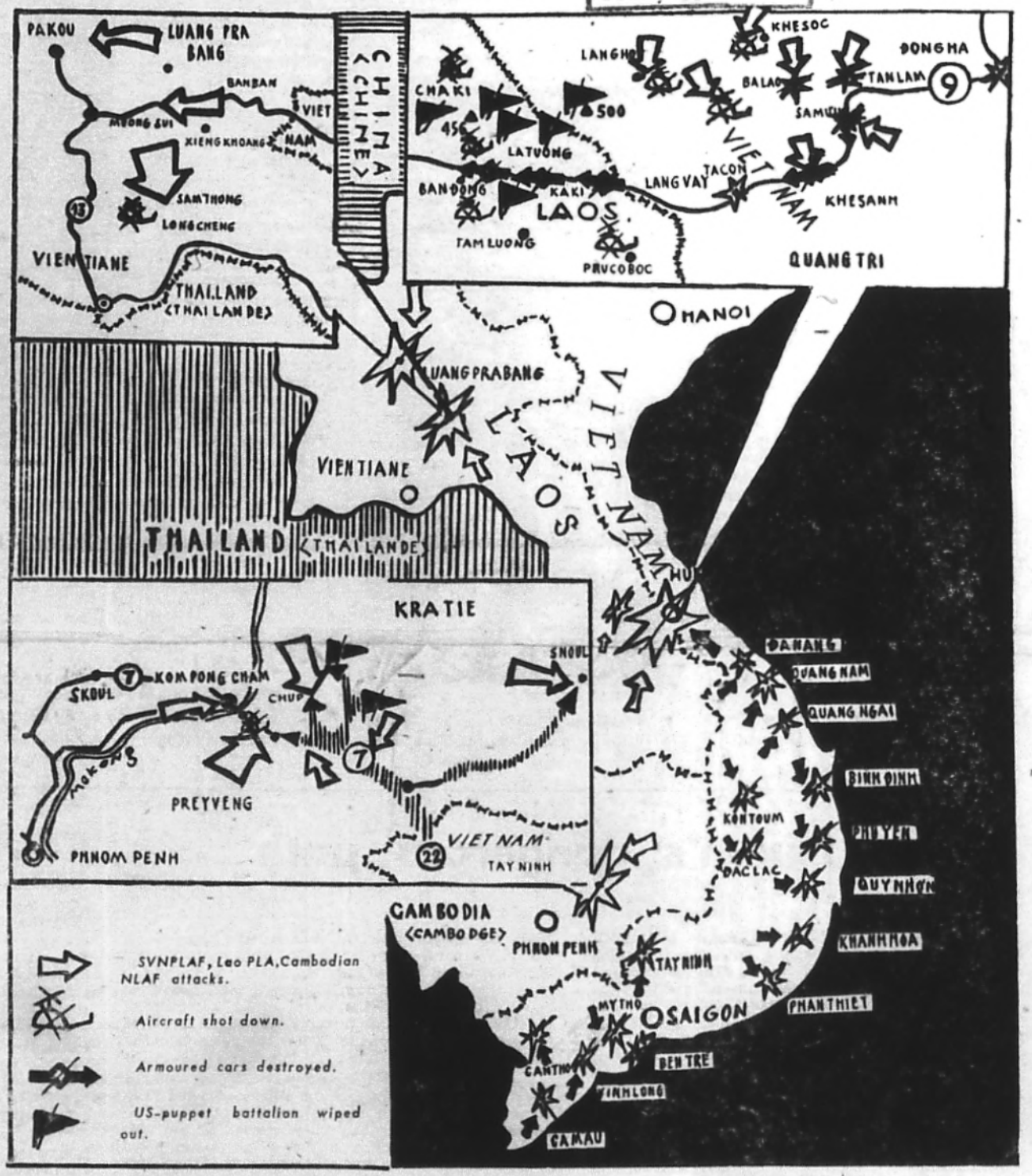
US-Saigon reverses in all Indochina

THE American aggressors have been sustaining stinging reverses in all battlefronts of Indochina. To such an extent that the Nixon administration has been landed in a fix. Opinion in the East as in the West agrees that the United States, which has been bogged down in South Viet Nam and Cambodia, is sinking into another quagmire in Laos. Its posture in the whole of Indochina is a tragic one.

Early in February, the US invaded Laos through the agency of Saigon mercenaries. It was a major gamble on which they pinned high hopes. In execution of a plan painstakingly worked out at the start of the dry season and after feverish preparations throughout January, which involved 30,000 GIs and puppet troops, the aggressors launched the massive Operation Lam Son 719 *into Southern Laos with a view to occupying Tchepone regarded as the "brain of all of the adversary's activities" and the "marshalling yard of his war materials." However, it was only an immediate objective. To everyone's knowledge, after the fiasco of their "limited war" strategy in face of the general offensives and uprisings of the PLAF and people of South Viet Nam in 1968, the US imperialists had shifted over to "Vietnamization," a strategic policy of the so-called Nixon Asian doctrine. But "Vietnamization" was soon stop dead and, searching for a way out, in May 1970 they embarked on the invasion of Cambodia. Here too they got caught in a morass while the situation became ever more precarious for them in South Viet Nam. In an effort to get out of their passive position and new predicament, and particularly to cope with the development of the situation in the coming dry season, they have adventurously invaded Laos while intensifying their criminal actions in South Viet Nam, pushing ahead the aggression against Cambodia and preparing for more dangerous military ventures against the DRVN. Operation* Lam Son 719 *is obviously part and parcel of the US overall scheme and war escalation policy in Indochina designed to improve their posture, to stave off the failure of "Vietnamization" and the bankruptcy of the Nixon doctrine itself.*

THE aggressors have nevertheless been reaping new setbacks. Intended to dodge their opponent's blows, the expedition

(Continued on page 6)



The US aggressors are not only losing in South Viet Nam, but also heavily on all battlefronts of Cambodia and Laos. "Vietnamization" is in deep waters. Operations Lam Son 719 (Southern Laos) and Toan Thang (Complete Victory) (Cambodia) have suffered severe reverses. Even "pet," "hard-core" troops of the Saigon mercenary army, with or without US support, have been thoroughly battered. The "heliborne tactics" and the "armoured-vehicle tactics" have dismally failed. The strategic formula: mercenary troops + US support, of which the American Command in Saigon wanted to prove the efficiency, once again has lost its effect in face of the popular war.

Statement on US Intensification of chemical warfare in South Viet Nam

ACCORDING to Western sources, the US command in Saigon on February 20 issued a communiqué saying that US forces in South Viet Nam "had been forbidden in future to use defoliants." It, however, added that "defoliants will continue to be used in inaccessible areas to destroy the enemy's crop and around base camps and military installations."

Everybody knows that the major part of South Viet Nam territory has been liberated, that there are military bases everywhere in the enemy-controlled areas. This means that South Viet Nam territory as a whole may be subjected to US toxic chemical sprayings. The aforesaid communiqué is but a perfidious and deceptive manœuvre of the Nixon administration.

For over one year now, the Nixon administration has time and again claimed that it had stopped using "organge defoliant" and gradually cut down toxic chemical sprays in South Viet Nam.

According to still incomplete statistics, a total of 715,000 hectares of land in 29 provinces were subjected to US toxic chemical sprayings in 1970. As a result, 275,000 civilians were affected including 400 killed. The US imperialists last year continued to spray various kinds of toxic chemicals they had used previously, including the "orange defoliant." They have even resorted to new kinds of chemicals which are very harmful to animals and vegetation.

The Committee for Denunciation of the US Imperialists' and Their Henchmen's War Crimes in South Viet Nam vehemently denounces and condemns all these criminal acts of the US imperialists to public opinion at home and abroad and demands an immediate cessation to the US chemical warfare on the whole of South Viet Nam territory.

SOUTH VIET NAM
March 2, 1971

The face and limbs of a young girl atrociously burnt by US napalm.

WEST NAM BO WOMEN DENOUNCE US-SAIGON ATROCITIES

U MINH area (in Rach Gia, Ca Mau provinces), more than 2,400 square km large, is one of the regions rich in natural resources in South Viet Nam.

In implementation of their "Vietnamization" and their "special pacification" program, the US aggressors and their stooges mounted several raids on the area. With air strafings and sprayings of chemical poisons they devastated extensive stretches of land there and virtually blotted out every sign of life in several places.

In face of the disasters created by the US aggressors in U Minh area as well as in South Viet Nam as a whole, the Committee for Denunciation of the US Imperialists' and Their Henchmen's War Crimes and the Liberation Women's Union in South Viet Nam have many a times revealed their heinous crimes to world public opinion, and demanded an immediate end to them. But in disregard of the world peoples' protest and the entire Vietnamese nation's indignation, the US aggressors and their flunkeys have continued their fiendish atrocities.

Recently, the US-puppets committed a new mass murder in the area. In a joint protest the Liberation Women's Union and the Association for the Welfare of Mothers and Children in West Nam Bo said:

"... In only one month ending January 4, 1971, the US aggressors and their agents slaughtered over 150 civilians, mostly old people, women and children in Khanh Lam, Bien Bach and Tri Phai villages of Song Doc and Thoi Binh districts (Ca Mau province). In Khanh Lam alone, enemy helicopters strafed and threw hand-grenades on the people who were taking shelter in their dug-outs, killing more than 100 of them. In Hamlet 8, same village, the raiders concentrated 14 families in a place trapped with hand-grenades and then called in artillery fire, killing or seriously wounding almost all of them.

During a raid on Hamlet 5, also in Khanh Lam village, the American and puppet troops captured 6 women, stripped off their clothes and gang raped them till insensibility.

The above-mentioned horrors are not separate acts but part of their comprehensive savage policy against the entire people in South Viet Nam in the past years.

The West Nam Bo women called on women throughout the country, in the US and the world over to take most effective measures to force the US aggressors and their stooges to stop their horrendous crimes.

Nixon's dangerous path

IN his 65,000-word nation-wide lengthy address of February 25, while dealing with the Indochina issue, Nixon once again tried to deny his criminal aggression and make the Americans believe that the "Vietnamization of the war" policy and the "Nixon doctrine' are successful, and that Nixon's aggressive operations against Cambodia and Laos, as well as the extension of the war to the whole of Indochina, would held the "Vietnamization" programme and get the US out of the war. Nixon hypocritically pretended: "The failure to end war is my deepest disappointment after two years in office!"

Not to mention all his acts of aggression after two years in office together with his bellicose and aggressive character, Nixon's recent address has revealed enough clearly his obstinacy and brutality.

However, Nixon cannot cover up his arrogant, aggressive and brutal nature.

He claimed that he was in no hurry to withdraw US troops, that he would maintain the US activities in South-East Asia, threatened to use US air power at a high level for the so-called "gradual withdrawal of US troops." Nixon brazenly slandered North Viet Nam and insolently threatened that US forces would remain in South Viet Nam "as long as North Viet Nam continues to hold a single American prisoner" (air pirate). This sabre-rattling tune of Nixon is nothing new to us. Nixon still follows a dangerous path, as the *Washington Post* remarked on February 14, 1971.

He sticks to his "Vietnamization" policy, prolongs his war of aggression, maintains US occupation troops in South Viet Nam and spares no efforts to realize his doctrine of making the Indochinese fight the Indochinese, the Asians fight the Asians. The "Vietnamization" and the "Nixon doctrine" have expanded the war of aggression to the whole of Indochina and seriously jeopardized peace in South-East Asia and the world. They are part of the US ambitious and criminal global strategy of bringing the whole world under its neo-colonialist sway presented by Nixon as the "Nixon doctrine."

Nixon's perfidious allegations about peace cannot justify the US persistence in shirking the fundamental issues in view of a correct settlement of the South Viet Nam problem. They prevent all progress of the Paris Conference on Viet Nam. Nixon completely disregards the legitimate demands of the South Vietnamese people, the peoples in the United States and the world, namely: an end to US aggression; withdrawal of all troops of the US and those of its satellites from South Viet Nam, and the South Vietnamese people's self-determination in settling their own affairs without foreign interference.

On the contrary, Nixon obstinately prolongs and expands the war of aggression, thus committing odious crimes against the South Vietnamese people. To save his "Vietnamization" from failure in South Viet Nam, Nixon has sent aggressor troops into Cambodia and Laos, expanded the war to the whole of Indochina and ceaselessly threatened North Viet Nam. But facts have proved that the more he prolongs and widens the war, the heavier his defeats.

In South Viet Nam, the US puppet criminal "pacification" plan has been frustrated in many places. In Cambodia, tens of thousands of Saigon puppet troops and US massive bombings cannot save the Lon Nol-Sirik Matak group from collapse, instead the Cambodian revolutionary forces have rapidly grown in strength and seized control of seven-tenths of the territory involving over four million people. Nixon has adventurously sent US and Saigon puppet troops to invade Southern Laos, but they were badly licked from the outset.

In the past two weeks alone over 4,500 aggressor troops were wiped out on Highway 9, more than 200 aircraft brought down, 200 military vehicles destroyed and 14 logistic depots burned out. The US "heliborne" and "armoured car tactics" have courted disastrous setbacks.

Many units of the Saigon general reserve upon which the White House and the Pentagon have pinned all their hopes for the success of the "Vietnamization" programme were defeated. Nixon's aggressive operation against Laos, his "big game," gets deeply bogged down.

The prolongation and extension of the war of aggression in Indochina have not only driven the US deeper into its quagmire but utterly isolated Nixon before public opinion in the world and even in the United States. The resolutions of the Senators of Montana and the Democratic Party demanding Nixon to set a fixed date for the withdrawal of all US troops from Indochina, and the demonstration of the Americans in New York on February 24 condemning Nixon's war of aggression in Indochina, constitute severe warning to Nixon.

No matter how short or lengthy might be Nixon's additional speeches, as long as he obstinately sticks to his position of an aggressor, the 50 million people in Indochina are resolved to unite closely, uphold their determination to fight for the independence and freedom of their own countries and vow to the Nixon doctrine which reeks of colonialism an ignominious fate.

The peoples of Viet Nam, Cambodia and Laos are resolved to drive the aggressors out of their countries, wrest back their independence and freedom, co-exist peacefully, and build a happy life in that beautiful peninsula.

SOUTH VIETNAMESE WOMEN'S TEN YEARS OF FRUITFUL FIGHT

Mme NGUYEN THI DINH
President,
South Viet Nam Liberation Women's Union

Mme Nguyen Thi Dinh, Deputy Commander-in-Chief of PLAF and the favourite of "dung si" (valiant combatants)

IN the past ten years, under the banner of resistance against American aggression, for national salvation, South Vietnamese women, joining forces with all the people, have been fighting valiantly and successfully.

The epoch-making simultaneous uprisings of the South Vietnamese people broke out in January 1960, and spread at a quick tempo throughout the territory, and shattered the enemy's grip over most of the rural areas.

With millions of participations, women, together with other segments of the people, rose up like a tidal wave. They erased garrisons with bare hands, set military posts on fire, dismissed local puppet authorities and got rid of wicked agents.

The tremendous success of the dramatic simultaneous uprisings added lustre to the tradition of patriotic struggle of the South Vietnamese women. The latter are known to and admired by world peoples as "the invincible long-haired army."

The US imperialists, backed by native lackeys, had been escalating their aggressive war to a higher degree of ferocity, with "special warfare" as with "limited warfare," with bloody "pacification plans" and the "strategic-hamlet state policy" as with crafty and cruel psywar practices.

The women's movement entered a new phase. The South Viet Nam Liberation Women's Union came into being in March, 1961, rallying millions in rural and urban areas, uniting patriotic elements of all strata, and leading them in the fight for the liberation of the nation and of women.

Under the NFL able conduct of the patriotic war, women have promoted their combat capabilities to a high degree and inflicted heavy reverses on the enemy.

— They formed the main local hard core in the drives against the building, and for the demolition, of "strategic hamlets," attacking him unremittingly with the "three-spearhead tactics." In spite of his tight hold, women of all ages, joining hands with their countrymen, pulled down one "strategic hamlet" after another, by day and by night; and, in coordinated actions with the PLAF, they staged simultaneous uprisings and blotted out big chunks of those concentration camps throughout South Viet Nam, thereby shipwrecking the abhorred US-puppet "state policy."

— Female participation in guerilla warfare was most active and assumed most original forms. Old women and young girls alike in the mountain and forest areas as in the plains, took up arms against the enemy. Clever and inventive, they made use of rudimentary weapons of every kind — from "mantis shaped" submachineguns, land mines, hand grenades to spiked traps and hornets. Operating everywhere, they stroke fear into their opponents' hearts. Many guerilla units were accredited with signal feats of arms, the most famous being Vu Thi Huynh's outfit.

When the United States brought in massive forces, the women's movement flared up in a most ebullient and original fashion. In all the three areas (the plains, the towns, and the mountain and forest area — *Ed.*), it scored major successes over American troops, the puppet army, and satellite mercenaries — the world's most brutal foreign legion. The political protest of female masses proved strong enough to halt armoured vehicles, stop gun-muzzles and pin armed helicopters down on the ground, not only for the sake of the people's life and property but also as an efficient support to PLAF actions. Political confrontations with the enemy reached a climax, involving dozens of thousands each, and at times some hundred thousand in 30 to 40 provincial and district towns at once.

"ALL for the front, all for victory" was the vibrant call of the Fatherland. Cadres and rank-and-file members of women's mass organizations rushed forward, mobilizing all their manpower and resources, and ready to sacrifice their lives, in their grim determination to do their bits in the widespread attacks. With ten million attendances, women in both urban and rural areas rose up and help in the shattering of the enemy's grip, liquidation of wicked agents, elimination of large bits of the puppet grass-roots administrative apparatus, and irrupted en masse into provincial and district towns, applying strong pressure on the Americans and their lackeys.

Parallel to insurrections, tens of thousands of women took part in military front attacks with arms in hands. They were present at all devastating onslaughts on Saigon, Hue and series of other towns and cities as well as on the adjoining areas. Commando, city self-defence, suicide, special scouting, and artillery units distinguished themselves with unusual brilliance. Women guerillas of ethnic minorities downed US jets, confronted armoured vehicles and knocked out ground troops in the Western High Plateaux; artillery women in Long An province poured a searing fire on adverse positions around the towns; women fighters in Cai Lay, Ben Tre, Quang Da, etc. counter-attacked the enemy in well over a hundred actions under showers of bombs and shells. Most remarkably, Le Thi Rieng's unit participated in the sweeping assaults on the American Embassy, the Independence Palace, the Saigon Radio Station, the puppet army High Command premises, and, thanks to their ability to appear and disappear unexpectedly, wiped out thugs right in Saigon streets. An eleven-girl self-defence unit of Hue fought off an American battalion's assault, and hundreds of other unknown women combatants set splendid examples with their heroism and self-sacrifice.

Hundreds of thousands of women carried ammunition to the front line round the clock. Thousands of girl volunteers, under enemy fire, toted munitions or food supplies, or brought back wounded combatants to base areas on their shoulders. In this strenuous job, Dong Thi Lien was cited for having saved the lives of injured soldiers by shielding them with her own body.

The Association of Combatants' Adoptive Mothers showed unbounded love and high abnegation in aiding, looking after, feeding and protecting our wounded armymen and war invalids.

Along with political and armed actions, women's agitation among adverse troops proved to be very effective; it disintegrated dozens of thousands of puppet soldiers and seriously downgraded the morale of those of the US and its satellites.

Firmly confident of their country's future and of their own, women in the liberated zone actively partook in the management of the rural areas and the building of a new life: 80% of them engage in farming to support their families and make their contribution to the resistance.

They assumed important posts in the revolutionary administrative machine and people's councils at all echelons, making up from 15 to 30% of the total committee membership. A great many held responsibilities in military commanding staffs, in leading and other committees in all the resistance branches of activity.

Women of the liberated zone set up Committees for the Welfare of Mothers and Children from the central to the village levels, and a vast medical and sanitary network.

In Central Nam Bo 5 more women doctors and 35 more women assistant doctors were in charge of the maternity and pediatric departments.

In late 1969, Western Nam Bo had already a comprehensive system of Committees for the Welfare of Mothers and Children down to the village and hamlet levels, attended by 1,300 medical officers who examined and helped deliver 15,500 women. In the Southern part of the Western High Plateaux there were 95 women doctors and assistant doctors, 50 pharmacists and assistant pharmacists, and 695 midwives, and sanitarians including many of the ethnic minorities.

In the cultural and educational field, our cadres and people in South Viet Nam have achieved a real feat: the maintaining of thousands of schools for children in hardest war conditions, which has astonished, and been admired by, foreigners. In the steel land of Cu Chi, strongly built schools under ground and enough textbooks and first-aid supplies were put at the disposal of children. In Ben tre and My Tho provinces, classrooms for the 1st form were housed in people's dwellings where pupils learned by night in the light of their own oil lamps. In the Plain of Reeds, lessons were given in houses on stilts in open flooded fields. Though dispensed in such conditions, education was ensured to all school-age children. During the 1968 school-year, 110,656 pupils attended 535 schools in Western Nam Bo; the school named after Nguyen Van Troi, Eastern Nam Bo, operated all elementary classes. The South Trung Bo highlands boasted 80 general-education classes for 1,455 pupils, and literacy classes for 3,500 girls most of whom belonged to ethnic minorities.

Emancipated step by step, living an ever newer life, playing a new role and holding new positions in society pending the day when they become masters of their completely liberated fatherland, South Viet Nam's women have enshrined in their hearts the immense services of President Ho Chi Minh who, by his teachings and guidance, painstakingly led them to make revolution.

At present, for all the heavy reverses that have forced them to de-escalate and negotiate, the US imperialists have not yet renounced their aggressive design. They are feverishly carrying out "accelerated pacification," "special pacification" and "Vietnamization," prolonging and expanding the war throughout Indochina, and accumulating fresh crimes.

But it is impossible for them to turn the tables. In two years of fierce confrontation with the enemy's "accelerated pacification," the people and women of South Viet Nam have got the upper hand. Promoting their spirit of revolutionary offensive and making an imaginative use of the "three spearhead tactics," millions within and without the Liberation Women's Union, together with our people and armed forces have been mounting continuous attacks and uprisings, countering "pacification," wiping out wicked thugs, striking at the adversary's rule, expanding the liberated zone, participating in production, establishing and consolidating revolutionary power and thereby thwarting the most vicious schemes of the Americans and their valets. In Saigon and other cities, women's drives for better living condition, orphans' and widows' unions, unions of mothers having sons detained in jails, etc., have been uninterruptedly fighting in coordination with other social strata for peace and the defence of women's dignity, for an end to the US aggressive war.

February 1971

Repeated Assaults, Great Victories

US gasoline storage in Nha Be (Saigon) pounded by the PLAF

THE PLAF DEVELOP THEIR COMBAT INITIATIVE, CONTINUALLY STRIKE HARD AT THE ENEMY IN ALL BATTLEFIELDS

WHILE Nixon was rushing into a new adventure — broadening the aggressive war in Laos to salvage "Vietnamization," American and puppet troops got a thorough thrashing in all battlefields of South Viet Nam. The People's Liberation Armed Forces struck hard at the enemy forces who were to take part in the drive into Laos and at the same time at others everywhere.

In the first week of February, the PLAF in the delta of *Central Trung Bo* levelled 23 positions and killed or wounded more than 2,000 adverse men. In Quang Nam and Quang Ngai provinces alone, 10 enemy positions were completely flattened on February 1. The people and army in Ca Mau, in the Mekong Delta, on February 3 and 5 repeatedly assaulted the enemy positions around the provincial capital and military sub-sectors, razed to the ground 4 posts and wiped out more than 400 puppet troops. In the Highway 9 area, North of Quang Tri, the liberation fighters from February 1 to 7 raided several bases, warehouses and car parking grounds from Cua Viet rivermouth to Khe Sanh. The enemy massed there almost all the Saigon reserve forces, units from Brigade 1, the 5th motorized Infantry Division, the Americal Division and the US Marine Division which received the first and most telling blows, suffered the heaviest casualties and lost the largest amount of war materials. On February 7 alone, the day before the US-puppet troops crossed the border, hundreds of enemy casualties were reported and 40 military vehicles destroyed on the same battlefield, which further sank their already deteriorating morale before their new military expedition.

While the US-puppets were bogged down neck-deep in South Laos, the PLAF furiously assailed the enemy in their field fortifications, on the North Quang Tri battlefield, and wiped out almost entirely the 39th puppet commando battalion on Hill 500. On the *High Plateaux*, on February 28, they besieged the 1st Battalion, puppet 42nd Regiment on Hill 935, some 25km southeast of Dakto district town. At 2 p. m. on March 1st, they overran the Hill, neatly wiping out this battalion. More than 70 enemy troops were taken prisoner and many weapons seized. The battalion commander was among the enemy casualties.

In the delta of Central Trung Bo, more than 200 enemy bases and positions were rushed in February. In the key points of "pacification," in the *Mekong Delta*, the enemy regional defensive force which, deprived of reinforcements or support, strove to dig in in their strongholds too could not stave off blows from patriotic forces. Platoons and companies of adverse troops, one after another, were neatly knocked out, and several posts and blockhouses levelled. The military attacks and uprisings hit hard at the "pacification" plan, destroyed a big enemy force and at the same time pulled down by big chunks the "strategic hamlets," which frightened the US-puppets out of their scheme of massing troops in the High Plateaux to clear the 3rd bordering area in support of the aggressive troops in Laos and Cambodia.

THE ENEMY COMMUNICATION LINES UNDER CONSTANT FIRE, A LARGE NUMBER OF AIRCRAFT DOWNED AND MANY MILITARY VEHICLES PUT OUT OF ACTION

A rather big US-puppet air force was deployed in sweeps, especially on Highway number 9, on the North Quang Tri and South Laos battlefields : 2,000 military aircraft including 500 helicopters, "the largest ever air fleet in the Indochinese war" (*AP* February 21, 1971). But the "heliborne" tactics which had been once defeated at the very start in South Viet Nam in the Ap Bac Battle on January 2, 1963 again failed with the downing of over 200 aircraft by the Lao army and people and more than 70 planes by the PLAF on the *Khe Sanh battlefield*. If the adverse infantrymen in Laos had to mark time and lost one battalion after another even with US air support, in South Viet Nam the US air power on the *North Quang Tri battlefield* also had to look on helplessly while their troops were getting battered. Understandably the 39th puppet commando battalion was completely chopped up on Hill 500 in broad daylight on February 20 and US helicopters only hovered a great distance off. The South Vietnamese army and people hunted US aircraft with all kinds of weapons and with all fighting methods. Never had US helicopters been bagged in such a big number as on the Highway 9 battlefield. Only in the first 20 days of February, the army and people in North Quang Tri and the Lao People's Liberation Army grounded nearly 300 US military planes, mostly helicopters — more than a half of the total number of choppers mustered in that operation. Besides, the US-puppets also fielded a rather big number of tanks and other armoured vehicles as "shields" for infantrymen and moral mainstay for all their troops.

On Highway number 9, the enemy deployed regiments of armoured cars and ground troops, several tanks and other armoured vehicles in various prongs and at the same time set up many rear bases to link up with the frontline, but their "armoured car tactics" met with serious difficulties. Right after the enemy deployment, PLAF in North Quang Tri pounded hard a series of enemy bases and car parking areas as well as at convoys of vehicles moving on the highway. The February 7 assault on Sa Muu, Tan Lam where the US motorized infantry brigade was digging in cost the enemy 43 military vehicles destroyed. On Highway number 9, from Tan Lam to Khe Sanh, many convoys of enemy military vehicles were repeatedly intercepted and dozens of them were wrecked in a single battle. In only 16 days ending February 21, the army and people in North Quang Tri destroyed 205 military vehicles, mostly tanks and other armoured cars. All told the number of US vehicles blasted out of commission in February on Highway number 9, both in North Quang Tri and South Laos ran to over 300 — more than a half of the total number of vehicles thrown into the battle. Enemy traffic on this highway was brought to a standstill at the very start. The morale of American "armoured" troops and helicopter pilots dropped considerably, and many cases of refusal of combat were recorded.

FAST SPREADING PROTEST

Against US-Puppets in South Viet Nam Cities

THE movement against the US and Thieu-Ky-Khiem and for democratic freedoms, better living conditions and withdrawal of US troops has been kept up in South Vietnamese cities, with insistence on an end to the US aggressive policy.

As early as the beginning of February 1971, the US-Saigon armed invasion of Laos aroused an unprecedented wave of anti-Americanism. Strong condemnations of the US aggression and war expansion in the whole of Indochina were raised by people of all strata and by mass organizations, including students' and pupils' associations, the Women's Movement for the Right To Live, the Popular Front for Peace, religious bodies and even a number of MPs.

The Movement for Self-Determination, the Women's Movement for the Right To Live and the Popular Front for Peace on a same day issued statements against US stepped-up B-52 bombing of Lao territory. They also condemned the Nixon doctrine of pitting Indochinese against Indochinese and spilling Vietnamese blood in place of American blood in Laos.

Deputy Secretary General Thich Nhat Huong of the Saigon An Quang Pagoda said, "The traditionally peace-loving Vietnamese nation is now turned into one of US mercenaries."

In downtown Saigon as well as in other cities there appeared many leaflets against US foray into Laos, while Saigonese students by the thousands took to the streets and paraded past the US Embassy chanting such slogans as "Down with US invasion of Laos!", "US go home!". US cars were burnt by them in defiance of an outright crack-down by the Saigon police. The US was assailed for its armed attack against Laos in furtherance of its aggressive policy in Indochina which sent tens of thousands of South Vietnamese youths to a useless death in lieu of GIs. An "Association of Mothers and Wives" was immediately set up in Saigon. It held a teach-in attended by thousands of women and came out against the US aggressive war in Laos and pressed for the returning to them by the US-puppets of their husbands and sons, for US troops' total withdrawal and for the cancellation of the mobilization order so as to spare South Vietnamese a meaningless death for the sole US interests.

Saigon newspapers continued to give a partial picture of the aggression and setbacks of the US in South Viet Nam, Cambodia and Laos, despite repeated seizures by the puppet authorities.

The students' struggle continues to seethe in Saigon and other towns

The provocative murders of Vietnamese civilians at Quy Nhon town by GIs triggered off a wave of indignation among students, pupils and the labouring people, including members of the Saigon administration and army. The movement rapidly spread to such South Vietnamese cities as Saigon, Hue, Dalat, Can Tho, etc. A series of demonstrations were staged with an attendance totalling several ten thousand, and followed by ransackings of US living quarters and burnings of US cars. Slogans and leaflets saying: "US go home!", "US murderers!", "Murderers should be punished!" appeared everywhere in cities and towns.

Meanwhile, the drive for better living conditions, democratic freedoms, university autonomy and against US-puppet decadent culture and predatory policy stirringly went on among the workers, students, pressmen, and traders. 1,000 Saigon shop owners returned their licences to the Thieu-Ky-Khiem authorities in protest against heavy taxes: this was a further proof of the peoples fast expanding opposition to the US aggressors and Saigon traitors.

Brutal measures of repression accompanied by deceptive manœuvres were resorted to by the US-puppets to stem the powerful upsurge of various social segments but in vain.

In the Cities

INDISCRIMINATE KILLING

ON Jan. 29, a US-driven tank ran into a crowd and crushed a 16-year-old girl named Nguyen Thi Canh, living near Ky Tho Market, Tam Ky district, Quang Nam province.

Quy Nhon town had been the site of successive murders by US troops: after school boy Nguyen Van Minh and a young fisherman were shot dead, an old lady was run over on Feb. 4 by a US vehicle and 2 children fell victims to an indiscriminate shooting by GIs on February 9.

On Feb. 10 US troops unwarrantedly let off their grenade launchers against a dwelling house, killing 2 people on the spot and wounding 3 others.

In Can Tho city, on Feb. 21, a US soldier drove a vehicle against Vo Ngoc Phuong, daughter of a major of the puppet army, and killed her.

The feeling of the city folks was running high against these crimes of the US soldiery; demonstrations were staged by people of all walks of life for punishment of the killers and total withdrawal of US troops.

BLATANT IMPRESS OF TROOPS

In furtherance of US "Vietnamization", the puppet authorities have been taking many measures to impress youths. Round-ups have been mounted by day and by night and all young men coming their way have been abducted in their vans regardless of whether they are youths, students or invalids. Even Buddhist monks have been forcibly recruited: this happened to 38 monks in Tra Vinh province. The monks fiercely resisted but they were flogged and jailed by the puppet authorities.

CRACK-DOWN ON PUPPET WAR INVALIDS

ON Feb. 23, the military court of the Thieu-Ky-Khiem puppet regime sentenced Nguyen Ro, the leader of the organization of puppet army's war invalids, to 3 years' emprisonment for his activities for better living conditions for war invalids. On Feb. 27, hundreds of war invalids and wives of puppet soldiers killed in action gathered in front of the puppet administrative seat of Quang Nam province and asked for allowances. The police was called in by puppet authorities against them and several demonstrators were wounded.

NEWSPAPERS AGAIN SEIZED

A series of Saigon newspapers were banned by the Saigon regime, like *Tin Sang* (Morning News) because it expressed the "hope that South Viet Nam would belong to the South Vietnamese and not to a group of contractors living on US dollars and continually paying lip service to some kind of social revolution."

Quat Khoi (Undaunted) weekly was indefinitely suspended by the criminal court, and its chief editor, a MP of the opposition named Nguyen Trong Nho, was fined 500,000 piastres.

2 successive issues of the papers *Lap Truong* (Stand) and *Tin Sang* (Morning News) were confiscated for flaying the sending of puppet troops to their death in the Lao war theatre.

HARD BLOW

(A Saigon battalion wiped out in no time on Hill 500 reporting)

ON February 20, 1971, the 39th Battalion of Saigon Commandos was written off by the People's Liberation Armed Forces on Hill 500, a springboard which it had been striving to consolidate for 12 days.

The site is a high hill with several peaks close to the Viet Nam — Laos border North-West of Khe Sanh, less than 30km from the latter position.

Bombs and rockets had been rained from US bombers and shells of all calibres fired from nearby positions for many days on end on the surroundings of the high point, playing havoc in the lush green hilly area. Anti-shell trenches, pre-fabricated concrete blockhouses, field pockets of resistance and CPs..., all formed a many-layer system of enemy fire-power with rather strong fortifications. Besides, the

39th Battalion was also receiving support from US-puppet artillery positions in La Tuong, Ban Dong and Lao Bao.

US jet fighters and armed helicopters day and night took turns in circling over Highway number 9. After the 6th puppet para-battalion was decimated on February 13, then the 37th puppet commando battalion was badly mauled and the offensive operation on South Laos by US-puppet troops was stopped dead, the 39th commando battalion sought by all means to reinforce their sanctuary. Adverse officers and soldiers alike who took refuge in their fortifications were greatly frightened by the heavy pounding whose report could be heard from the Lao territory.

On the other hand the outstanding feats of the South Laos People's Liberation Army units in the Long Range's western flank fired the fighters of the 10th Unit of the PLA on the Khe Sanh battlefield. The whole, unit, burning with the impatience to accomplish exploits of their own set about to prepare for the fight.

They tightened their stranglehold around onto the enemy to cut off all their air supply routes and isolated them.

They collected intelligence about the position and tactical methods of the 39th commando battalion known as battle-tested defensive troops.

The PLA anti-aircraft units occupied the high points and wove a dense flak at US helicopters. The artillerymen climbed steep hillsides and hauled guns and shells to assigned emplacements through roads built by the engineering corps.

On the night of February 19, the PLA task force closed in upon the adversary and in the light of flares one could see the gunners calmly poising for action besides their camouflaged artillery pieces.

Suddenly, from the commanding shelter came the "go" signal and the guns began roaring furiously. Volley after volley of whizzing shells burst on the peaks of Hill 500. Flame and smoke, intertwining, shrouded the system of enemy fire-power, explosions shook violently the whole springboard of the 39th battalion. The shock fighters of the PLA 10th unit in Khe Sanh sprang out of their fortifications, in several prongs, charged the first peak.

From the CP, two signals were fired in the air for the PLA guns to stop, and through thick clouds of smoke, the Khe Sanh shock fighters rushed forward. A barrage of submachine-gun-fire was laid on the enemy blockhouses and shelters, knocking down group after group of puppet troops in spotted uniforms. The commando company on the first peak, the highest point, was completely put out of action in a few minutes.

The liberation fighters immediately consolidated the newly occupied fortification into a new jumping board for assaults on other peaks.

It was daybreak. The enemy from the 2nd and 3rd peaks fiercely opened up, and a moment later, a group of puppet troops tried a sally toward the 1st peak. When they were within effective range, the liberation fighters, from high, let off their sub-machine guns. The adverse troops were hurled back down the hill foot and fled in disorder. The shock fighters, like an avalanche, dashed downward and made a thrust into the 3rd peak. It was broad daylight. Enemy bodies littered the battlefield besides burned US firearms. From a communication trench, a group of puppet troops crawled out, trembling and with raised hands.

At noon that day, the PLAF artillery continued to hammer at the 4th peak while the remaining adverse troops were taking their meals. The shock fighters then rolled down from the two occupied peaks. At about 4 p. m., 3 US helicopters landed on the 4th peak to rescue the enemy remnants threatened with imminent complete annihilation. While the latter were scrambling to board the choppers, a direct hit was scored on one of the landing copters, shattering it to pieces. The other craft were also set on fire as they were trying to get away. The survivors fled in panic to the hill foot.

Meanwhile, a flight of US helicopters coming from the East made a circle and dived down to rocket out of recognition the wounded puppet troops lying all over the ground, to destroy the traces of their bloody reverse.

The valiant fighters of the 10th unit in Khe Sanh with bayonets glittering in the afternoon sun flew after the last men of the adverse battalion, with loud calls to them to surrender.

JOINT DECLARATION
BETWEEN THE SVN LWU AND THE WILPF

THE women and people of South Viet Nam and the women and people of the USA both cherish a genuine peace and friendship among nations on the basis of equality and mutual respect.

President Nixon, however, running counter to the legitimate aspirations of the South Vietnamese and American peoples, has prolonged the war in South Viet Nam through the "Vietnamization" policy, multiplying most brutal "pacification" operations throughout the countryside and intensifying terror campaigns in the cities; stepped up the "special war" in Laos; expanded the war of aggression to Cambodia; kept violating the sovereignty and security of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam and through recent bombings and raids may be preparing the way for new military adventures in North Viet Nam.

Obviously, his 5-point proposal, as well as his January 4, 1971 statement, are not designed to bring peace to Viet Nam, but to conceal the prolongation of the costly war in Viet Nam and Indochina.

Having undergone too much sacrifices and suffering caused by the US government's unjust war, women of South Viet Nam and the USA are resolved to strengthen their unity and push forward their struggle, for an early end to this war for the ideals of peace and freedom.

On the basis of the foregoing assessments, the South Viet Nam Liberation Women's Union and the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (US Section) demand that the Nixon administration:

1/ Announce immediately the date by which all US and allied forces will be withdrawn from South Viet Nam on or before June 30, 1971; end all support to the militarist Thieu-Ky-Khiem clique, and let the South Vietnamese people settle their internal affairs without foreign interference, with a view to building an independent, democratic, peaceful and neutral South Viet Nam advancing toward national reunification.

2/ End permanently all encroachments upon the sovereignty and security of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam.

3/ Respect the independence, peace and neutrality of Cambodia and Laos in keeping with the 1954 and 1962 Geneva Agreements; end its armed intervention in Cambodia and Laos; stop supporting and using the US-controlled administrations in Cambodia and Laos against the local peoples.

For the sake of peace, freedom and justice, with a firm conviction in final victory, women of South Viet Nam and the USA, together with their peoples, will do their best to strengthen their mutual understanding, solidarity, friendship and reciprocal assistance in all fields.

We call upon all women and peoples throughout the world who love peace, freedom and justice, to give powerful support to our struggle and take an active part in actions for peace and for the Vietnamese people's basic national rights.

Done in Hanoi, January 15th, 1971.

For the South Viet Nam Liberation Women's Union.

MA THI CHU

Member of the Central Committee of the South Viet Nam Liberation Women's Union

For the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom. (US Section).

KATHERINE L. CAMP

President, US section, Women's International League for Peace and Freedom

Do the American people know?

"ARE the American people aware of what is going on in Laos and the danger we are compelled to face?" was the question put by American airmen manning planes and helicopters supporting the Saigon aggressive forces in Southern Laos, to war correspondents covering the operations at Khe Sanh (*AFP*, Feb. 14).

These apprehensions by American pilots were not groundless. In fact the *AP* correspondent in Saigon revealed that the US Command had hushed up the information according to which a great number of American aircraft had been downed and American flyers killed in Laos. On February 22, *Time Magazine* let it be known that newsmen had no more trust in the official communiqués released by the Pentagon on the losses sustained by the US and Saigon quislings. The paper said that these correspondents had seen many lorries loaded with corpses of South Vietnamese (puppet, *Ed.*) troops and American servicemen killed in Laos, and at least a company of choppers hit by bullets daily by the enemy (patriotic forces, *Ed.*) batteries. *AFP* quoted American pilots as saying that they had met very dense ground fire. *Reuter* said on Feb. 12 that flak defending the trail had wrought havoc among US and "South Vietnamese" choppers. To the *UPI* correspondent in Saigon on Feb. 21, Lieutenant-Colonel Robert Molinelli, from Pocatallo, Idaho, commanding group 2, Air Mobile Regiment 17, had admitted that armed helicopters AH-1, recon helicopters OH6, OH5 and UH11 were under heaviest fire and were having the hardest time in the ten years of the Viet Nam war.

Paul Leandri, *AFP* correspondent at Khe Sanh, reported that under these circumstances on Feb. 14, most of American helicopter pilots operating in Laos began to complain of the dangers they were facing.

According to *AFP* of Feb. 23, while the American airmen were risking their lives, behind them their Vietnamese (puppet, *Ed.*) counterparts were grumbling that "the operation is a true shambles."

At Khe Sanh — supply base of the operation — the Leathernecks were also in a flutter. They were hurriedly digging trenches to dodge the patriots' shells. Three thousand GIs at that base were certain that their turns would come, as they did not forget the artillery pounding the US Marines had received three years ago. *UPI* reporter also saw the words "Sewer rats at Khe Sanh" scribbled on an underwear of a GI who was digging his manhole while complaining about lack of sandbags and shovels. Technician 4th class William Rentschler, 20, from Detroit said he was astonished why he and his mates had not been blown up as the "communists" in the mountains nearby were equipped with rockets and mortars to do the job!

All is in a muddle over there, said another Saigon army commander to a *UPI* correspondent. All this should also be brought to the knowledge of American public opinion.

US-Saigon reverses...

(Continued from page 1)

has received many more. The invasion has been stalled. The army forces and people of Southern Laos braving bombings, shellings, and countless difficulties, have put up a stiff resistance. Officers and men of the Lao People's Liberation Army have shot down numerous aircraft, struck hard at the enemy's main mobile war means, thwarted many troops landings, and at the same time mounted continuous attacks on their ground forces and armoured vehicles on the move just as in camps.

On the other side of the border, South Viet Nam PLAF on the North Quang Tri front have been coordinating their actions with their Lao counterparts. They have been hammering at adverse CPs, logistical bases, car parks, gun emplacements, supply dumps, water and land communication lines.

Lao and South Viet Nam peoples and liberation forces have been hanging to the enemy's rear to thrash them without respite, wherever they are, while stepping up political struggle in the occupied areas and agitation work among adverse troops.

They have proved to be able fighters, achieving smooth coordination, applying properly various combat methods to specific situations, mounting annihilation operations with a high efficiency and winning many major successes, like the destruction of a mercenary commando battalion on Hill 500 (North Quang Tri) and of an airborne one on Hill 436 (Southern Laos).

According to still incomplete figures, in a little over three weeks the liberation forces of Southern Laos and North Quang Tri put out of action almost 5,000 men, downed close to 300 planes and destroyed or captured more than 300 military vehicles of various kinds.

The Americans and their lackeys have lost a sizeable number of their crack, hardcore troops and a large quantity of their war means. They have received telling blows in their front as well as in their rear from the patriotic forces. Their foothold is insecure and the point d'appui of their operation tottering. All of their rescue operations have been beaten off. Their supply has been meeting with insurmountable difficulties. Their losing posture is becoming more and more apparent. American and mercenary soldiers and pilots, and their commanders in the field, in Saigon, at the Pentagon and the White House— all have been feeling bewildered.

THE US aggressors are not only losing in Southern Laos and North Quang Tri, but also heavily on all the other battlefield. In South Viet Nam, they are badly pummeled in Central Trung Bo, Eastern and Western Nam Bo and the Western High Plateaux; political effervescence in urban centres keeps mounting. In Cambodia, the Americans and their henchmen are under fire from all sides. Operation Complete Victory *has suffered severe reverses. In February, over 3,500 American and Saigon troops and 210 military vehicles were put out of action. In Northern Laos, the enemy lost the Muong Xui — Phu Xo area, several positions at Bac U, and are being enveloped and drubbed at Sam Thong and Long Cheng.*

It is thus clear that although they have managed to escalate the war, the Americans are in dire straits in all theatres. "Vietnamization" is in deep waters and the Nixon doctrine put to a tough test.

With the rape of Laos, the US imperialists wanted to advertise the "maturity" of the Saigon puppet army, to demonstrate the unprecedented progress of "Vietnamization" and the "soundness" of the Nixon doctrine. Hard facts on the battlefields have however pointed to the contrary. Even "pet," "hard-core" troops of the Saigon mercenary army, with or without US support, have been thoroughly battered. American artillery and air support are no magic wand. The strategic formula: mercenary troops + US support, of which the American command in Saigon wanted to prove the efficiency, once again has lost its effect. The "heliborne tactics" and the "armoured-vehicle tactics" have dismally failed. The true colours of both the US aggressors and their native lackeys have again been bared. All progressive mankind has stood up against the USA. Various segments of the American people are angrily crying out: "Hang Nixon."

Universal opinion condemns the United States war escalation and castigates its "grave blunders." Kissinger himself admitted US setbacks in Laos while Nixon, in his February 25 speech, sang small.

BUT for all their humiliating failures the US aggressors still remain very obdurate. In his afore-mentioned speech Nixon made no bones of his intention to fling mercenary troops with US support against the DRVN. They have also threatened to dispatch into Laos "search and rescue" teams to recover downed American pilots, thus preparing public opinion for the committing of US combat troops to this country. More than ever the American aggressors are bent on new adventures.

The heroic people and army of North Viet Nam are on the lookout, ready for relevant ripostes. Those of South Viet Nam, Laos and Cambodia are meting out due punishment to their adversary. They have achieved electrifying feats of arms, which testify to their iron determination to get the better of the US aggressors, and to the offensive potential and capabilities of the three fraternal peoples of Indochina. Let the trigger-happy go on with their insane enterprise. The fire they have kindled will consume them like moths. They are taking a one-way path. In front of them there is nothing else than the abyss of defeat.

SOUTH VIET NAM In Struggle

CAMBODIA:

Army and people's sustained and successful actions

TO make good their heavy setbacks in January 1971, the US and Saigon rule hurled on February 4 20,000 troops, consisting 5 columns of infantrymen, 4 regiments of armoured vehicles and 7 battalions of artillery with direct US air support in an aggressive operation in North and North-East Cambodia.

At the very start of the enemy raid, the Cambodian National Liberation Armed Forces, together with people in Kompong Cham and Kratie, fought a series of annihilation battles in Choup and Snoul areas, against the adverse armoured force. The patriotic forces at the same time mounted waves of attacks on the main enemy infantry columns, wiping out many battalions, whittling down the 333rd Saigon column and many enemy battalions in the Choup and Snoul rubber plantations area.

In 24 days ending February 28, the army and people in Kompong Cham and Kratie took a toll of 5,500 adverse troops, including 15 battalions wiped out, 10 columns of armoured cars heavily damaged, and more than 300 military vehicles (including 140 tanks and other armoured cars) destroyed.

By beating off the enemy in North-East Cambodia the National Liberation Armed Forces maintained control of Highway number 4, and consolidated and developed their forces in the liberated areas. On the Highway 4 battlefield, the liberation fighters continued to knock out enemy convoys carrying supplies and dislodgement troops to Vien Rinh and Pich Nin Pass.

Up to now, after 80 days and nights' fighting on that strategic highway, the Cambodian NLAF have inflicted nearly 9,500 Saigon and Lon Nol casualties, knocked out or heavily decimated 14 battalions and 2 columns of armoured vehicles, downed 22 aircraft, destroyed more than 320 military vehicles, seized over 1,500 firearms of various types, nearly 100 military vehicles and hundreds of tons of food and weapons.

LAOS:

- Over 7,800 enemy troops, 1 armoured car column wiped out, 234 aircraft and 119 military vehicles wiped out

- Vang Pao CP heavily battered

THE military situation in Laos in February 1971 was highlighted by severe reverses of US and Saigon aggressors in South Laos at the hands of the Lao army and people.

In the early days of February 1971, from 900 to 1,100 US-Saigon aircraft including B-52s daily cleared the way for helicopters and tanks and other armoured vehicles to bring tens of thousands of invading troops into Laos. They boasted they would reach Savannakhet in a short period.

But the invaders were fiercely and murderously intercepted in the air as well as on the ground by the Lao People's Liberation Army.

Chaki, La Tuong, Phu Co Bok and the surroundings of Ban Dong were turned into a cemetery for US planes : 22 were downed on February 8, 42 on February 11 and 31 others on February 25... As reported by *AFP* on February 14, these were the "darkest hours" and "darkest days," and *Time Magazine* said on February 22, it was there that the enemy (PLA-*Ed.*) anti-aircraft guns shot down US aircraft like figs. More than 200 aircraft, mostly troop-carrying helicopters, were grounded. The enemy had to mass around Ban Dong area, about 20 km from the Viet Nam-Laos border. This "heliborne" and "armoured car" operation took more than 20 days to cover such a road section. *UPI* on February 21 quoted President Nixon as admitting that the communists' (PLA-*Ed.*) strong resistance had "slowed down the advance."

The enemy detachment moving on Highway 9 was engaged in violent fighting on Hill 311 in the Kaki bridge area and Huoi San where they suffered one battalion, one column and many companies put out of action. Tightly encircled at Ban Dong, they attempted a sally with tanks and paratroops who were immediately knocked out with all the vehicles destroyed or captured.

The enemy southern detachment was also bogged down and sustained heavy losses in Phu Co Bok, Phu Coc Tom and Tam Luong and on Hill 517 with 2 battalions written off.

In co-ordinated actions, the Lao people and army in the North hit hard at the enemy in Pak Ou area (Luang Prabang and erased their occupation line in Muong Sui, Phu So and Muong Pot. They enveloped the adverse troops in Ban Na, fiercely attacked the sanctuary of Vang Pao armed agents in Sam Thong-Long Cheng, driving all the enemy in that area into a serious predicament.

THE MURDEROUS CLASH ON HILL 456

That is what was told by war prisoners belonging to Paratroop Battalion 3 of the 3rd Saigon puppet Brigade wiped out on February 25, 1971 by the Lao PLA on Hill 456.

For the past few days, the whole battalion had crowded into their fortifications, waiting for a certain death in an ever closing-in iron stranglehold. It was an iron stranglehold in its very vivid and full sense. Shells of all calibres of the PLA rained on the position at any moment and without interruption, deafening the defenders. Several blockhouses had been erased, dozens of gun-nests blotted out. Not a single squad was unscathed. The whole many-layer fire-power system was torn to pieces and crippled. The supply aircraft could not slip through the dreadful anti-aircraft barrage. Hundreds of parachutes, dropped wide off the hill area, fell behind the PLA lines. Food was running short. At night, the choppers which had stealthily landed on the hill top were at once blasted to pieces. More disastrously still, the support had stopped coming from the artillery emplacements of the paratroopers for long silenced.

For a few days now, the whole landing base had been within the effective range of the PLA infantry fire. The nearby gun site was already put out of action. Even if it had still remained, the artillery would have been ineffective in front of such a battle-hardened opponent. Without fire support, the fortifications could not resist long-range poundings, and the self-styled "Red Berets," from officers to men, had to dig in day and night in their trenches like moles. What had happened to the 6th Heliborne Battalion and 39th Commando Battalion and armoured cars columns knocked out in previous battles was ominously haunting their minds. Every hour and minute, the gun booming and fearfully screeching direct fire got on their nerves. Up to the morning of February 25, an unforgettable morning for the paratroopers, when they had just sunk into a heavy slumber, they were thrown out of their bunks. Artillery shells fell without let-up on Hill 456, fiercely rocking the ground and sending earth and stones raining down.

The shells violently hit the hill top and its flanks, and sliced off chunks of their blockhouses.

Meanwhile, many US jet planes roared in from afar and dropped bombs, and then a flight of helicopters circled over the base. The paratroopers joyfully shouted : "Here comes the saviour!"

When the aircraft were trying to fly away from the fortifications, ground fire suddenly burst from all directions. A "Phantom" caught fire and crashed like a burning torch. Two white parachutes bailed out and drifted southwards. The helicopters immediately made for that direction, leaving in the lurch the desperate paratroopers. Obscene and crude curses and clamours burst out in the entrenchments. Death was inching nearer and nearer to them. Infantry fire from all parts was focused on the para-battalion CP. Only until then did the remainders receive the retreat orders, but it was too late.

After the "Forward! Forward!" shouts, articulate calls to surrender were heard :

"For their selfish interests, the US-Thieu-Ky clique have deceived you and are sending you to your death. Put down your guns and surrender. You will live if you surrender but you will die if you resist."

Amidst the confused din, the panting voice of a paratrooper who had complied with the injunction stammered out :

"Mates of the 3rd para-battalion, let us surrender and we shall be shown mercy!..."

Streaming in from all directions, youthful fighters with bayonets on their rifles, poured a murderous fire into the entrenchments. Waves upon waves of the shock force swooped on the gun emplacement. Two adverse artillery companies were put out of action in next to no time. From the hillsides and springboards, charging shouts grew louder and louder. Suddenly an officer coming out of the enemy CP with a pale face and in a crumpled uniform, raised high his hands. Accompanying him were dozens of other officers with lean faces and frightened eyes. And then from all corners, hundreds of "Red Berets" emerged from their trenches, stupidly blinked at the immense blue sky.

As if just awakened from a dream, they left the trenches stinking with gun-powder and dead bodies' smell, and followed the South Laos Liberation fighters.

Following the Nam Bac, Plain of Jars and Saravane successes, this was one of the battles in which the Lao PLA made the most aggregate strength of all the army branches to wipe out the enemy on the lovely patch of land of their Fatherland.

THAO THAN
(War correspondent of Khaosan Pathet Lao)

Saigon puppet officers captured on Hill 456 (Southern Laos) on February 25, 1971 :

1. *Nguyen Van Tho, colonel, commander-in-chief of the 3rd puppet paratroop Brigade (1st of line)*
2. *Bui Van Chau, lieutenant-colonel, commander of Artillery battalion (3rd puppet paratroop brigade).*
3. *Tran Van Duc, major colonel, commander of 3rd staff section (3rd puppet paratroop brigade).*

World condemnation of US aggression

— On February 25, 1971, the **Soviet government** strongly condemned in a statement the US imperialists' extension of their aggressive war against the Indochinese countries. "Any US plan to achieve its goal by stepping up military provocations against North Viet Nam is doomed to failure," the statement said: "The Soviet Union and the other socialist countries will help the fraternal Vietnamese people foil US aggression... The United States must bear full responsibility for the new complications in the international situation."

— On February 25, the **Czechoslovak government** made public a statement saying that "The United States is repeatedly violating the territory of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam, carrying on its armed intervention in neutral Cambodia, and invading together with Saigon troops the third Indochinese country: neutral Laos... The government and people of Socialist Republic of Czechoslovakia reaffirmed its staunch support to the legitimate struggle for independence and freedom of the Indochinese countries."

— On February 28, **the Council of Ministers of the Democratic Republic of Germany** also came out with a firm demand that the United States immediately end its aggression in the whole of Indochina, its bombings of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam, Laos and Cambodia, and unconditionally withdraw all US and satellite troops from all the Indochinese countries."

— On February 24, **10,000 Tokyoites** staged a meeting during which they passed a resolution and message to Nixon and Japanese Prime Minister Sato, protesting against the US-Saigon aggression of Laos, and extension of the war to the whole of Indochina.

— On February 19, in London, 20 **British Members of Parliament** passed a resolution criticizing the US aggression against Laos and demanding an end to British support to the US war in Indochina.

— On February 22, the **World Council of Clergymen** meeting in Geneva sent a letter to many governments drawing their attention to the dangerous consequences of the US interference in Laos and extension of the war to the whole of Indochina, and stressing that this aggression is "undefendable."

— Recently, the **Standing Committee of the Association of Lawyers of the Arab countries** meeting in Damascus passed a resolution reaffirming its complete solidarity with the effort of the three Indochinese peoples against US aggression.

— On February 24, the **Annual Conference of the Swedish Committee of Solidarity with Viet Nam** meeting in Stockholm unanimously approved an appeal calling upon the Swedish people to step up their support to the peoples of Viet Nam and other Indochinese countries. The Conference also released a statement on the coming activities of the Committee in face of the new situation.

— On February 20, 300 Asian youths from the **League of Asians in the United States** staged a demonstration in front of the UNO building in New York; they performed a short play denouncing GI crimes in South Viet Nam and uproariously shouted "Immediately bring US troops home!"

— On February 26, representatives of **24 religious organizations in the United States** gathered in Washington launched a drive throughout the country for an immediate end to the Indochinese countries.

— Of late, **many US scientists** have raised their voices against the US extension of the aggressive war in Indochina. The President of Yale University Kingman Brewster pointed out that the moral depression in the US society is the result of the US policy of aggression by the US authorities in Indochina!

Minister Nguyen Thi Binh visits ITALY

AT the invitation of Italy's "Committee to Support Viet Nam," Minister Nguyen Thi Binh, Head of delegation at the Paris Conference on Viet Nam visited Italy from February 19 to 24, 1971.

She was warmly welcomed by Mr Lombardi, President of the Committee to Support Viet Nam and many representatives of political parties and senators and diplomatic representatives of many countries in Rome.

During her stay in Italy, the SVNR Foreign Minister called on the Italian Socialist Party, the Italian Communist Party, the Italian Proletarian Unified Socialist Party, the Italian Catholic Labour Association, the Italian Women's Union and the National Peasants' Union.

Mme Nguyen Thi Binh also called at the HQ of the Italian General Confederation of Workers.

On Feb. 23, Mme Nguyen Thi Binh paid a visit to the Italian Parliament. Messrs Perio Caleffi and Pietzo Secchia, Vice Presidents of the Upper House; Benigno Zaccagnini, Vice President of the House of Representatives and President of the Italian Catholic Democratic Party, expressed their joy and pride at receiving Mme Nguyen Thi Binh and reaffirmed their solidarity with, and full support to, the South Vietnamese people's patriotic struggle.

Mme Nguyen Thi Binh had cordial talks with representatives of youth organizations of the political parties and mass organizations at a mass rally. The meeting approved a statement "strongly condemning the US invasion of the Indochinese countries and urging the Italian government to score US expansion of the war in Indochina and against threat to air attack again the DRVN."

Before leaving Rome, Mme Nguyen Thi Binh held a press conference at the Foreign Press Hall in Rome.

WORLD WOMEN'S INDEFECTIBLE SOLIDARITY

OVER the last ten years, since the establishment of the South Viet Nam Women's Liberation Union by the NFL, the gruelling but valiant struggle waged by the South Vietnamese women and people against US aggression has constantly been benefiting from the sympathy and support of women all over the world.

The *Women's International Democratic Federation* (WIDF) declared: "Our solidarity with South Vietnamese women and people is unshakable. Together with women and other people all over the world, we staunchly support your action and follow with a deep sympathy the struggle put up by the women and peoples of South Viet Nam, Laos and Cambodia." At its meeting held in last October, the WIDF strongly condemned "Vietnamization" and expansion of the US war to Indochina, fully backed the 10 points of the South Viet Nam NFL and PRG of the RSVN, and scored Nixon's 5 points as a hoax. At the WIDF Congress held in June 1969 in Helsinki, almost all the delegations were eager to shake hands with, or to kiss, the members of the South Viet Nam women's delegation to show their sympathy and solidarity with, and their confidence in the final victory of, the South Vietnamese people. They pledge themselves to set up without fail an "Institute for the Welfare of Vietnamese Mothers and Children" as suggested by the congress.

Shoulder to shoulder with the South Vietnamese women, the Lao and Cambodian women have taken up arms against the common enemy—US imperialism—to defend their national independence and freedom.

Completely identifying themselves with our effort, the women of socialist countries regard it as their lofty internationalist duty to back in all fields, political, moral and material.

There is no end of such fine tokens of friendship as: "We are ready to shed our blood for Viet Nam," "a creche for Viet Nam," "for the sake of the Vietnamese people," "two hospitals for South Viet Nam," "a gift from the heart," from women in *Cuba, the GDR, Hungary, Bulgaria, Poland, DPR of Korea, Albania, Rumania, Czechoslovakia, Mongolia*. The women of newly independent countries and capitalist countries have thrown in their lots with the South Vietnamese women and people with variegated actions such as: blood donation, sending of letters, messages, money-orders, woollen clothes, petitions, and collections of signatures under very hard conditions.

Women of *Asia* and *Africa* have been keenly following the battle of South Viet Nam women and people, chanting: "US imperialism, pull out of South Viet Nam," "Viet Nam belongs to the Vietnamese."

In *Great Britain, Italy, Sweden, Finland, Belgium, Austria*, the *Netherlands, Denmark, Norway, Luxemburg, Canada*, the *Federal Republic of Germany*, support for Viet Nam has been displayed by women taking part in demonstrations, young girls knitting woollies, housekeepers staging a hunger strike, lasses donating their blood, etc. To relieve somewhat the sufferings of the victims of US aggression in South Viet Nam, 1,000 Canadian women have collected woollen clothes for mothers and children in Viet Nam.

In *Australia*, women in mourning have picketed the Parliament building for two days as a protest against the sending of young Aussies to South Viet Nam.

In *Latin America*, the women of Mexico, Venezuela, Costa-Rica, Chile, Uruguay, Paraguay have sent to the South Vietnamese counterparts letters praising them as "heroines of our time."

In the *United States* protest against Nixon's "faked" peace" and "real war" and for US troops withdrawal is daily mounting impetuously; thousands of women in mourning, pushing prams, swarmed to Washington to urge an end to the Viet Nam war, and repatriation of American boys.

"End the murderous and nasty war," "Withdraw all US and satellite troops from South Viet Nam" such are the angry outbursts of millions of women in the world, which are gathering into a thunderstorm over the US aggressors' heads.

The South Vietnamese women are profoundly grateful to women all over the world for their support to their people's just resistance. They pledge themselves to do their best to fulfil President Ho Chi Minh's supreme wishes: "to resolutely fight the US aggressors till total victory" so as to deserve the confidence and support of their friends all over the world.

Demonstration of Algerian women in support of the Vietnamese people.

SOUTH VIET NAM CENTRAL ORGAN OF THE SOUTH VIET NAM NATIONAL FRONT FOR LIBERATION